

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 20, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Brett Waterfield

Absent: Sarah Tong Sangmeister (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Gladys Kaiser, Superintendent, Community Recreation Programs
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent, Contracts & Revenue Development
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Ramon Arevalo, Superintendent, Facility Maintenance
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Superintendent, Community Recreation Programs
Bill Greco, Acting Chief Park Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: J.J. Craig, Police Department
Steve Lewis, Fire Department
Laurel Pryszazny, Library Services
Stephen Scott, Assistant to the City Manager
Stacia Mancini, 5th District City Council office
George Medak, ADG
Kristen Autry, Save LBC Skyline
Bob Lamond

It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to excuse the absence of Commissioner Tong Sangmeister. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Vice President Satariano to approve the June 15, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – GWENDOLYN PARKER AND GEOFF HALL

President Saltzgaver stated that Ms. Parker and Mr. Hall would present the Sammy Award at the August 17 Commission meeting.

IV. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR JULY

President Saltzgaver stated that Vice President Satariano would announce the Employee of the Month for July.

Vice President Satariano announced Del Ransom, as Administrative Employee of the Month.

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner, filling in for Mr. Ransom's supervisor, spoke about Mr. Ransom.

V. LONG BEACH CHALLENGE PRESENTATION

Commander J.J. Craig, from the Police Department, introduced himself, Deputy Chief Steve Lewis from the Fire Department, Bureau Manager Laurel Prysiaczny with Library Services, and Assistant to the City Manager Stephen Scott. Mr. Craig said that they are trying to figure out how to address the challenges in Long Beach regarding the Police, Fire, and Library Services Departments. He distributed information sheets and a community feedback survey, to be returned with comments and questions. He mentioned that there are not enough officers currently to deal with the problems in Long Beach.

Deputy Chief Lewis stated that the City wants the community's opinion on a public safety, library services, and youth protection finance measure. He stated that the Fire Department is continuing to serve the public with less staff.

Ms. Prysiaczny stated that the libraries are a haven for children after school and on weekends. She discussed that statistics show that 85% of juveniles in the justice system have a third grade reading level, or less, and how the libraries provide quality reading programs for youth. She discussed the budget cuts, which have cut the library hours drastically. The hope is through an alternative tax strategy, funding would be provided to extend the hours and budget of the libraries.

Commissioner Guerra asked why the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine was not part of this?

Deputy Chief Lewis stated that is the kind of comments they need to see.

Mr. Hester responded that the City Council gave direction to survey the community with the library initiative. They decided not to move forward on this with the library only. Police, Fire, and Library Services were added into one initiative and if this is successful, the Department would want to do this in the future. The survey will find out if the community is willing to accept this type of initiative.

Commissioner Waterfield asked what programs and partnerships could come out of this?

Commander Craig stated that the Police Department has always seen the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine as a strong partner in prevention and they work very closely with staff, such as with the PAL program. If this initiative would pass, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine would benefit because it would allow the Police Department to focus additional attention to working with youth.

Mr. Hester stated that more officers would help with park issues. The potential for park rangers would also increase with this initiative.

Commissioner Guerra asked what this measure would bring to the libraries?

Ms. Prysiazny responded that the libraries would increase their hours.

President Saltzgaver stated that the deadline to put a measure on the November ballot is August 8, which would be the second City Council meeting in August. He asked if there were considerations about whether this would be a dedicated tax or a general tax increase.

Mr. Scott explained that a dedicated tax increase would require two thirds of the votes and a general tax would require 50% plus one. The City is trying to get input from the community as to what they would like to see. Language as to how the money is going to be spent has not been crafted yet. The City is planning on holding a workshop on the subject on August 1, leading up an August 8 City Council action.

President Saltzgaver said that the goal of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is to provide after school programming, to provide a diversion to keep youth busy. The Department is here to be a partner and he wished them the best.

VI. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#06-0701

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver stated that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#06-0702

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR MICHAEL CARL EDMONDS

Mr. Hester stated that this is a regular memorial bench request for a replacement bench in Alamitos Bay Marina. The requester will pay for all costs. The Department recommends approval.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for Mr. Michael Carl Edmonds. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-0703

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR LINDA MARTIN

Mr. Hester stated that this is a replacement bench requested to be placed at the Marine Stadium parking lot. The requester will pay for all costs.

Vice President Satariano asked if this bench would interfere with the launch ramp.

Mr. Arevalo responded that there is an existing bench at this location and it would not interfere with the launch ramp.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for Mrs. Linda Martin. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-0704

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR KEITH A. GABEL

Mr. Hester stated that this is a request for a replacement bench on the bluff near the Lone Sailor statue. The Department recommends approval.

Commissioner Guerra asked what would happen to the bench that is currently there.

Mr. Hester responded that it would be placed in another area in a park.

It was moved by Commissioner Guerra and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for Mr. Keith A. Gabel. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-0705

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A NEW PICNIC SERVICE CONCESSION PERMIT WITH LOS ANGELES PARTYWORKS, INC., TO OPERATE A PICNIC SERVICE

Mr. Hester stated that there are a large number of company and group picnics that are held in the parks and the Department requires them to use a picnic service with insurance and liability approved by the City. The Department maintains a list of these approved picnic services for people to use.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a Picnic Service Concession Permit with Erik Elkaim, doing business as Los Angeles Partyworks, Inc., for an initial term of one year with one-year renewal options at the discretion of the Director. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2006 FEE INCREASES FOR PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES UNDER THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION

President Saltzgaver opened the public hearing on fee increases.

Mr. Hester stated that the Finance and Appeals Committee has discussed this item for some time. The Parks and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction, per the City Charter, over approval of fees in parks. They do not have jurisdiction over the tidelands area or golf fees. Pending the Commission's action today, a recommendation will go into the City budget. The City Council has the authority to override the Commission's approval. The Finance and Appeals Committee is also working on a cost recovery plan. These recommendations are consistent with the City Council policy and Parks and Recreation Commission policy.

Vice President Satariano stated that the Finance and Appeals Committee has worked on this for almost a year and concurrently applied the fee increases going forward to the Cost Recovery Plan, which has been approved by City Council. The fee increases are modest and after surveying surrounding cities, discovered that Long Beach's is under the fees of most of the surrounding cities. Last year the Parks and Recreation Commission also committed to a CPI increase on a yearly basis. He said that Mr. Hall put a lot of thought into every line item. The overall goal was to not raise fees for seniors or youth, but to pass the majority of the increases on to those users of the services that we felt could afford it a little bit more gracefully. Long Beach park fees are under most of the surrounding cities. This is consistent with the Department and

Parks and Recreation Commission's policies and is a work in progress. A lot of work has gone into these fee increases.

President Saltzgaver asked for public comment. There were no comments, so he closed the public hearing on fees.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Waterfield to adopt a resolution for fees and charges relating to the Adaptive Arise program, adult sports, athletic facility permits and reservations, Blair Field, contract classes, day camps, El Dorado East Regional picnic camping and vehicle entry, facility rentals, filming locations, Nature Center tours and classes, community pools, rentals and admissions, special services, user services and new administration and processing fees effective October 1, 2006. The motion carried with Commissioner Livingstone abstaining.

VIII. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Executive Committee met and went over the agenda.

- Discussion of Committees

President Saltzgaver stated that the Executive Committee discussed committee assignments, which were sent to the Commissioners a week ago for comment. Receiving no comment or concerns, the committee assignment stands as listed.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE Vice President Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Department is 75% through the fiscal year. He said that the total expenditures are at 65.5% and the total revenue are at 68.3%, and would appear to be under the goal. He emphasized that the months the Department pulls in the most revenue are July and August and these are in line with the Department's revenues for this time of year.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Waterfield, Chair

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the Committee met this morning and discussed violations for no equipment in the skate park. They discussed increased signage or closing the skate park down for a few weeks. They also discussed the new park ranger office trailer.

Mr. Greco discussed the park ranger applicants going through the hiring procedure.

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the park incident statistics were included in the packet.

Vice President Satariano said that there have been spikes in public contacts since last year and asked the reason.

Mr. Greco responded that the public is becoming more proactive and calling more.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department is having an expensive, difficult summer for maintenance. There have been an exceptionally large number of people in the parks and vandalism and graffiti is up citywide. It is straining Department maintenance staff.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee has not met. He asked the Commissioners to take a look at page eight of the Director's report for the pertinent information included.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

Mr. Eschen stated that the Capital Improvements Project report would be included in the packet next month.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
(vacant), Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the chair of the City Schools/Joint Committee is vacant and there was no meeting last month.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet.

IX. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2006

Commissioner George stated that the Department's Annual Report mailed out to the Commissioners was one of the best he has seen. He asked if it was true that there are 69 tennis courts throughout the city, as mentioned on page two.

Mr. Hester responded that there are 69 tennis courts citywide, which includes those at schools and parks.

Commissioner George requested the Department send a listing of the tennis courts to the Press Telegram and the Grunion Gazette so the public know how many tennis courts there are.

Commissioner Guerra complemented staff on how much they do and how much is happening in the city.

President Saltzgaver asked how the non-Municipal Band concert series were doing.

Mr. Hester responded that those concerts and the movies in the parks are doing very well. He said that they are averaging 300 to 500 at each concert.

President Saltzgaver requested a schedule of the non-Municipal Band concert series so he could publicize it.

X. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no correspondence received.

XI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Saltzgaver stated there was no unfinished business this month.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF A MINI-PARK AT 151 WEST SEASIDE WAY

Mr. Eschen distributed a revised plan to the Commissioners. He stated that this is where Pacific Avenue dead-ends into Ocean Boulevard and is at the back at the Seaside Way property elevation. The site had been master planned to be the location for the Loeff carousel building roof, which was going to be used by the Long Beach Heritage Association. Mr. George Medak is here and can explain why this has been discarded from the master plan and is being replaced with a plan for a park. This is an unusual park site in that it is surrounded by parking structures on three sides. The park has a very simple design of grass, trees, some shrubs, a couple of picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles. The area is isolated and we feel that it is better to err on the side of safety and make sure that the area is able to be closed

Commissioner Waterfield asked what the park hours would be and who would be responsible for opening and closing the park.

Mr. Eschen responded that it has not been decided yet who would close the park. The city has a number of mini-parks that are closed either by recreation staff or maintenance staff. In this case, the developer will be maintaining the park and the homeowner's association will take that over and would probably take over the responsibility of closing the park.

Commissioner Waterfield stated that we should make sure that public access is maintained.

Mr. Hester asked if there would be a park sign on the property.

Mr. Medak stated that there would be a park sign in the park.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Loeff roof is before the Planning Commission this afternoon to approve the developer place the cupola up by Ocean Boulevard as a kind of informational kiosk.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if there was public parking available for this park.

Mr. Medak responded that there is street parking available or parking is available in the Pike parking structure.

Ms. Kirsten Autry suggested incorporating a stage in the park and that park hours be posted along with instructions on where to go for a key.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the design of a new mini-park at 151 W. Seaside Way, subject to the additions noted in the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hester introduced and welcomed Ms. Stacia Mancini, a new staff member for Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske. Ms. Mancini previously worked in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

B. GOLD MEDAL VIDEO – JANE GROBATY

Mr. Hester stated that Ms. Grobaty would be showing the Department's submittal for the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award. The winner will be announced at the annual conference in Seattle in October.

Ms. Grobaty played the Gold Medal video.

XV. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Grobaty stated that the Gold Medal video is also being played on the Charter Cable channel 8 in Long Beach.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Guerra learned at the Park Safety Committee meeting this morning that the park ranger positions that are being filled are part-time positions, not full-time positions. They are really trying to do a lot with little resources. He thanked staff who were involved with the 4th of July festivities. He also recommended blinds for the Senior Center library.

Commissioner Livingstone suggested that the Department try and get the skate boarders to monitor themselves.

Commissioner Waterfield suggested off-site Commission meetings.

Mr. Hester responded that he would put together a list of possible sites.

Vice President Satariano stated that Mr. Chris Pook has worked very hard on the Sea Festival details and it is going very well.

XVI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2006, at El Dorado Park West, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine